

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAJ-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-11 /084 W

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R 041634Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6217

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW, SP

SUBJECT: CDU BUNDESTAG DELEGATION VISIT TO SPAIN

BEGIN SUMMARY: HEINRICH BOEX, CHIEF OF THE CDU FOREIGN  
RELATIONS OFFICE, VISITED MADRID WITH THREE CDU BUNDES-  
TAG DEPUTIES JAN. 25-28. BOEX, WHO STAYED ON FOR THE  
MEETING OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IN MADRID, CAME  
BACK OPTIMISTIC ABOUT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SPAIN.  
THE BUNDESTAG DELEGATION WAS RECEIVED BY THE KING,  
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PRIME MINISTER ARIAS, INTERIOR MINISTER FRAGA, AND

OTHER OFFICIALS. ACCORDING TO BOEX, THEY WERE ASSURED THAT SPAIN WAS MOVING AHEAD WITH DEMOCRATIC REFORMS AND THAT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN 14 MONTHS. THE CDU DELEGATION URGED THE SPANISH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS TO FORM AN ALLIANCE BEFORE THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE. BOEX WAS DUBIOUS ABOUT THE SPANISH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS' CLAIM THAT THEY WOULD RECEIVE 30 PERCENT OF THE VOTE IN FREE ELECTIONS BECAUSE THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS SEEM TO LACK SUPPORT AMONG WORKERS. THE CDU PLANS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE TO THE SPANISH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. END SUMMARY

1. AMBASSADOR (RETIRED) HEINRICH BOEX, CHIEF OF THE CDU FOREIGN RELATIONS OFFICE, MET WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS FEB. 3 TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS IN SPAIN.
2. BOEX RECENTLY ACCOMPANIED THREE LEADING CDU BUNDESTAG MEMBERS TO MADRID. THE DELEGATION HELD HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVERAL OF THE SPANISH CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS. AFTER THE OTHER THREE--CDU TREASURER LEISLER KIEP, PARTY LABOR SPOKESMAN KATZER AND EUROPEAN UNION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS CHAIRMAN VON HASSEL--RETURNED TO THE FRG, BOEX REMAINED FOR THE CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC PARTIES' CONVENTION IN MADRID.
3. BOEX SAID, THE RECEPTION ACCORDED THE CDU DELEGATES COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER. THEY MET WITH JUAN CARLOS, PRIME MINISTER ARIAS, INTERIOR MINISTER FRAGA, AND THE UNDER SECRETARY IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, OREJA. THE SPANISH OFFICIALS ASSURED THEM THAT SPAIN WAS MOVING AHEAD WITH DEMOCRATIC REFORMS. THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES ALSO SAID THAT DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN 14 MONTHS.
4. BOEX AND HIS COLLEAGUES URGED THE VARIOUS SPANISH CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC FACTIONS TO FORM AN ALLIANCE BEFORE THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. HE SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE FIVE CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC PARTIES REPRESENTED AT THE MADRID MEETING, THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADDITIONAL CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, INCLUDING THE UDE. BOEX REMARKED THAT THE MAIN DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE POLICIES PURSUED BY GIL ROBLES AND RUIZ GIMENEZ WAS A LEFT-RIGHT DISAGREEMENT OVER ECONOMIC POLICY. IN GENERAL, THE PROGRAMS OF THE CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC PARTIES WERE UNDERDEVELOPED, EXCEPT IN THE AREA OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION. OF THE THREE REGIONAL CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC GROUPS, CATALONIA,

VALENCIA AND THE BASQUE AREAS, THE LATTER WAS THE ONLY CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC PARTY WHICH HAD LINKS TO THE WORKING CLASS. BOEX SAID THAT THE UDE UNDER SILVA MUNOZ, UNLIKE THE FIVE PARTIES OF THE "EQUIPO," OPPOSED ANY PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMUNISTS IN A REFORMED POLITICAL SYSTEM AND SUPPORTED A "SELECTED" AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS RATHER THAN THE GENERAL AMNESTY PROPOSED BY THE "EQUIPO."

5. THE CDU HAS CONTACT WITH ALL THE CHRISTIAN-DEMO-

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CRATIC PARTIES BUT IS CONCENTRATING ITS EFFORTS ON THE FIVE WHICH MAKE UP THE "EQUIPO." BOEX SAID THAT THE CDU COULD ONLY PROVIDE LIMITED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BUT THAT MUCH COULD BE DONE IN THE FORM OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNICAL ADVICE.

6. ALTHOUGH THE SPANISH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS CLAIM THEY COULD GET UP TO 30 PERCENT OF THE VOTE IN A FREE ELECTION, BOEX IS DUBIOUS. THE MAJOR SHORTCOMING OF THE SPANISH CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, HE BELIEVED, WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR LACK OF SUPPORT AMONG WORKERS.

7. KATZER HAD CONTACT, BOEX SAID, WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SPANISH LABOR MOVEMENT, AND THE CDU WAS INVITING A GROUP OF SPANISH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC FOR A TRAINING PROGRAM ON HOW TO ORGANIZE TRADE UNIONS. BOEX COMMENTED THAT THE KATZER APPOINTMENTS WITH THE LABOR TYPES HAD BEEN THE HARDEST TO ARRANGE BECAUSE OF THE MISTRUST FELT IN SPANISH LABOR CIRCLES ABOUT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS.

8. THE CDU DOES NOT BELIEVE THE UDE NEEDS SUPPORT BECAUSE MUNOZ HAS SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL BACKING. (COMMENT: THE CSU, THE BAVARIAN SISTER PARTY OF THE CDU, CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE UDE.) THE CDU DELEGATION REPORTEDLY URGED THE SPANISH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS TO SEEK CLOSE COOPERATION WITH NATO AND THE EC AND TO AVOID COOPERATING WITH THE SPANISH COMMUNISTS. LEISLER KIEP, UPON RETURNING TO THE FRG, CALLED FOR TRAINING SPANISH MILITARY PERSONNEL IN WEST GERMANY.

9. BOEX AND THE BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES ALSO MET WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE SPANISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO BOEX, THE CHURCH IN SPAIN DOES NOT WISH TO BE CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE SPANISH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. IF THE CHURCH WERE TO GIVE ANY SUPPORT TO A CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC TYPE PARTY, THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE SECRETARY TOLD THEM, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A "TRULY PROGRESSIVE PARTY " AND HE ADDED THAT "IDEALLY IT WOULD NOT HAVE THE TITLE CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC." MOST SPANISH PRIESTS, BOEX STATED, WERE FORCED TO WORK AT A SECOND JOB IN ORDER TO MAKE ENDS MEET ECONOMICALLY. THEREFORE, THEY HAD CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE WORKING CLASS AND HAD BECOME MORE PROGRESSIVE THAN HAD BEEN THE CASE.

COMMENT: THE FRIENDLY RECEPTION THE DELEGATION RECEIVED BY THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE

OPTIMISM BOEX FELT ABOUT FUTURE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS  
IN SPAIN. THERE IS, TO BE SURE, CONSIDERABLE INTEREST  
ON THE PART OF THE CDU IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CHRIS-  
TIAN-DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN SPAIN, AND THE WEST GERMAN  
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS CAN BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT  
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IN THE FUTURE.  
CASH

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## Message Attributes

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